25 Wilton Place
London SW
April 7/82

My dear Gray

I see by your notes on my paper on Gramineae that you are startled at and I suppose do not quite approve of some of my combinations. I should be much obliged if you or any of your botanical friends would communicate to me any criticisms which may occur to you as soon as convenient in order that I may consider them when I come to revise my MS for press this summer. I have had some useful observations from Hackel of St Polten

fragrans which Bojer expressly says is introduced into the Mascarene islands though now so abundant there — we have authentic specimens of the plant originally described by Ventenat from Paris gardens quite identical with Bojer's from the island)

I am afraid I cannot keep up Dasylirion as distinct from Nolina — the typical species of the two are indeed very different in habit as well as in character but every distinctive character breaks down in one species or another — among the few species there are four or five very different forms of fruit. Any observations from S. Watson will be thankfully received

I keep up Nothoscordum (divided by Baker between Milla and Allium) though certainly it is very near Allium. Besides the American species it includes one from China (Caloscordum neriniflorum Herb) which Regel cannot have seen or he never would have referred it to the Allium Chinense or Thunbergii. It appears to have a very limited range in North China.

Yours very sincerely,
George Bentham.

and from Boissier and I may have to modify my views in some respects at least for instance I may have to put Polypogon back into Agrostis – and perhaps change the position of Isachne – but for a practical work like the Genera Plantarum I try to get tangible characters as well as natural groups which do not always go together

We have not yet began printing Hooker has been doing a good deal of work as well as myself but I have been rather thrown back by a troublesome cough – of which I hope now to have got rid – and Liliaceae take me longer than I expected. I cannot concur in Baker's tribes – With regard to your American genera I can go much more readily with S. Watson – I should have been almost tempted to keep up Triteleia as distinct from Brodiaea but have retained it as a section – it certainly includes most if not all the Chilean Brodiaea species placed by Baker in Milla

Leucocoryne is confined to very few species only differing from the S. African Tulbaghia in the root: but L. Grayi go Baker goes where Gay had put it into Tristagma with Stemmatium Philippi (Stephanolirion Baker) Watson is quite right in restricting Milla to Cavanilles' species Baker's Milla is a sad mess – his Milla Borbonica is the common Nothoscordum